

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/04/17 : CIA-RDP74B00590R000100090008-9

SECRET

ROUTING

ROUTING	
1	SS
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DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS
ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	SERIALS

TO	FROM	CONF	INFO	INITIALS	INFO
	CHIEF				
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25X1A IN 99232 OSA 1-20

TO CITE

SECRET 110056Z CITE 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

OXCARTEL INTEL

EXTRACTED FROM THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL, DATED 8 JAN 67. HEADING - NO CLUE AS TO PARACHUTE. QUOTE: THE BODY OF THE PILOT OF THE SUPER - SECRET AIR FORCE PHOTO - RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS LOCATED SATURDAY AFTERNOON ABOUT THREE MILES FROM THE WRECKAGE, 90 MILES NORTHEAST OF LAS VEGAS. OFFICIALS AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE SAID THAT THE PLANE WAS AN SR-71, CAPABLE OF FLYING 2,000 MILES PER HOUR AND AN 80,000 FT. CEILING. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS AT EDWARDS IDENTIFIED THE PILOT AS WALTER L. RAY, 33, OF CANOGA PARK, CALIF. SEARCH PARTIES FOUND HIS BODY ABOUT 3 P.M. IT WAS NOT KNOWN IF HIS PARACHUTE HAD OPENED. THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PLANE CRASHED FRIDAY NEAR LEITH, NEV., AN ABANDONED SECTION STATION OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS FOUND THE WRECKAGE FRIDAY, BUT WITHHELD ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL SATURDAY. THE CRAFT HAD BEEN MISSING

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

RELEASING OFFICER

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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IN 99232

S E C R E T

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SINCE THURSDAY. RAY'S BODY WAS LOCATED ABOUT THREE MILES WEST OF THE PLANE, WHICH WAS FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST OF LEITH. SEARCHERS SAID THAT RAY EJECTED FROM THE PLANE AT 45,000 FEET, AND HIS PARACHUTE SHOULD HAVE OPENED AT 16,000 FEET. AT THE TIME THE BODY WAS FOUND, A 60 MEMBER SEARCH PARTY FROM LAS VEGAS WAS ABOUT HALF-WAY TO CALIENTE. IN THE GROUP WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL, CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND MEMBERS OF THE SHERIFF'S JEEP POSSE. THE SEARCH PARTY CONSISTED OF 16 VEHICLES AND ENOUGH EQUIPMENT FOR A SUSTAINED SEARCH OF SEVERAL DAYS. THE DEAD PILOT WAS A CIVILIAN EMPLOYED BY THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP. AN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A HELICOPTER CREW EXAMINED THE WRECKAGE, AND THEN MILITARY PERSONNEL PLACED A TIGHT RING OF SECURITY AROUND IT. THERE WERE SOME REPORTS THAT THE PLANE WAS NOT AN SR-71, BUT SOME OTHER SECRET AIR FORCE PLANE - BUT COL JAMES SMITH, INFORMATION OFFICER AT EDWARDS AFB, WHERE THE FLIGHT ORIGINATED, DENIED THIS. THE SR-71 IS CAPABLE OF WORLDWIDE RECONNAISSANCE, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CRAFT MADE JULY 24, 1964, BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON. UNQUOTE.

S E C R E T TOR 110117Z JAN 67

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